

SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE, CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
LINCOLN CHAFEE, RHODE ISLAND
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
PETE DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
JOHN WARNER, VIRGINIA

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
MARK DAYTON, MINNESOTA
FRANK LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY
MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS

MICHAEL D. BOPP, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
JOYCE A. RECHTSCHAFFEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 7, 2005

The Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-7099

Dear Governor Blanco:

Pursuant to its authority under Rule XXV(k)(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Section 101 of S. Res 445 (108th Congress), and Section 11(e) of S. Res 50 (109th Congress), the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has initiated an investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina. To aid in this investigation, we respectfully request that the Office of the Louisiana Governor provide the Committee (in accordance with the attached definitions and instructions) with the information and documents requested below.

We are both very aware of Louisiana's continued efforts to respond to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, we have spent time in the affected areas of the Gulf, and have seen first hand the devastation caused by the hurricane and the efforts currently underway to recover. As noted above, we are making the following requests for information and documents as part of the Committee's investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina. We recognize the demands on your time at this critical juncture of recovery, but it is important, too, that a thorough Congressional investigation be conducted. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Office of the Governor provide the Committee with the following information and documents:

1. Organization charts of the Governor's office and of each component of state government involved in the preparation for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina. Identify the individual(s) who hold or held each key position from August 23, 2005, to September 6, 2005;
2. A detailed description of the Governor's roles, responsibilities and authorities in preparing for and responding to a major disaster. Moreover, with respect to each specific role, responsibility or authority described, please:
 - a. list the statutory, regulatory or other source for that role, responsibility or authority; and
 - b. identify the key personnel within the Louisiana Office of the Governor and the

Louisiana state government involved in acting pursuant to that authority or discharging that role or responsibility.

3. Identify and provide copies of all authorities, regulations, procedures, policies, and operating guidance related to the Office of the Governor's ability to act or task, assign missions to, or seek assistance from other entities or organizations, including, but not limited to, any other State or Federal agency, in responding to an emergency or major disaster. Provide all documents that refer or relate to any such acts, tasks, requests, or mission assignments by the Office of the Governor in connection with Hurricane Katrina;

4. All documents from the past five years that evaluate, assess, or describe, in any way, the risks posed to the State of Louisiana by a hurricane or flood, including, but not limited to, documents that relate to the knowledge of such risks held by Federal, State, or local officials, including, but not limited, to the East Jefferson, Orleans, West Jefferson, Lake Borgne Basin, and Plaquemines Levee District Boards, prior to the landfall of Hurricane Katrina. This also includes, but is not limited to, all documents from the past five years that refer or relate to the vulnerability of the levee system, or particular levees, in or around the City of New Orleans, to damage, breach, or overflow, including, but not limited to, documents that refer or relate to the knowledge of Federal, State, or local officials of such vulnerability;

5. All documents that refer or relate to any planning or exercises conducted to respond to a hurricane scenario in Louisiana, including, but not limited to, all documents that refer or relate to the hurricane planning exercise known as "Hurricane Pam," including, but not limited to, all plans, reports, after-action reviews and other analyses, whether they be in final or draft form, that refer or relate to Hurricane Pam;

6. Identify any individual(s) appointed as State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) for the emergencies and major disasters declared for Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. For each such individual, state when he or she was first notified of potential deployment, state when the individual was actually deployed, and state when the individual was appointed as SCO or GAR. For each such individual, identify all prior emergencies and disasters for which he or she had served as SCO or GAR, describe any other relevant experience, and explain why the individual was selected to serve as SCO or GAR. Provide all documents that refer or relate to these individual(s) from August 23, 2005, through September 6, 2005;

7. Within the universe of documents created between the dates of August 23, 2005, and September 6, 2005, and that refer or relate to Hurricane Katrina, please produce:

a. All documents that refer or relate to emergency or major disaster declarations under the Stafford Act or applicable Louisiana law for Hurricane Katrina, including, but not limited to, gubernatorial declarations or requests for declarations, any internal Office of the Governor consideration, analyses and recommendations regarding declarations or

declaration requests, and agreements with FEMA executed pursuant to a declaration, as well as any amendments to such agreements;

b. All communications between the Office of the Governor or the State of Louisiana and (1) the Federal government, including, but not limited to, FEMA, or (2) any other Louisiana State, parish, and/or local emergency agency or department, including, but not limited to, any request by the Office of the Governor for Federal assistance in preparation for, or in response to, Hurricane Katrina; and

c. All notes, recordings, videotapes and any other documents from meetings, teleconferences, or videoconferences;

8. Please provide a detailed description of how and when the Office of the Governor was first informed that it would have to take action to prepare for and respond to Hurricane Katrina. Please be specific as to dates, times, and personnel involved;

9. Please provide all evacuation plans and a detailed chronology and description of any evacuations carried out or coordinated by the State of Louisiana, the Office of the Governor, or any collaborative efforts between the State of Louisiana, the Office of the Governor, and any other Louisiana State, parish, and/or local agency or department, relating to Hurricane Katrina, including who ordered the evacuations, when the evacuations started, where evacuees were evacuated from and to, and under what authority such evacuations were ordered and carried out. Please provide all documents referring or relating to any such evacuations;

10. To the extent not already provided in the responses to previous questions and requests, please identify and provide a detailed description of all actions taken by the Office of the Governor in preparation for and in response to Hurricane Katrina, between the dates of August 23, 2005, and September 6, 2005. Please provide all documents referring or relating to any such actions;

11. All documents, from August 23, 2005, to September 6, 2005, constituting, referring or relating to communications between the Office of the Governor and Federal, State, parish, or local officials or first responders, or with others in the private or nonprofit sectors, regarding assistance or offers of assistance relating to Hurricane Katrina;

12. All documents and communications between the dates of August 23, 2005, and September 6, 2005, that are related to or associated with Hurricane Katrina that were not produced in response to previous items in this request;

13. All documents from August 23, 2005, to September 6, 2005, referring or relating to emergency communications in the areas affected by, or expected to be affected by, Hurricane Katrina, including, but not limited to, requests for assistance with communications and plans to address communications failures;

14. Please identify all key State of Louisiana personnel with responsibility for emergency and

interoperable communications in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina;

15. All documents constituting, referring or relating to communications from August 23, 2005, to September 6, 2005, between the State of Louisiana and/or the Office of the Governor and Federal, State, or local officials or first responders, or with others in the private or nonprofit sectors, regarding the failure or inadequacy of emergency communications;

16. Describe the state command staff responsible for the preparation for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina, including how this command staff complied, or failed to comply, with the principles set forth in the National Incident Management System. Was the command a unified command? If not, what was it? Identify all individuals within the command. Please explain in detail how the command exercised control over each aspect of the preparation for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina;

17. All records relating to communications to and from the state Emergency Operations Command; and

18. All documents concerning funding by the Federal government for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project; the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project; and the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project.

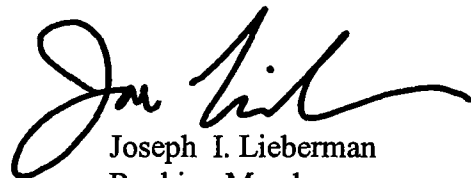
We request that these documents and information be provided as they become available but no later than November 3, 2005. If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request, please contact James McKay of the Committee's majority staff at 202-224-4751 or Josh Levy of the Committee's minority staff at 202-224-2627.

We thank you and your staff in advance for your cooperation.



Susan M. Collins
Chairman

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
Ranking Member